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REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claim 2 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1 and 3-21 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

Applicants wish to bring the Examiner's attention to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on April 14, 2005 and respectfully request that a copy of the submitted IDS, as reviewed by the Examiner, be returned to the Applicants with the next communication.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 14-21. Claim 18 has been amended to correct an obvious punctuation error, namely to change the semicolon at the end of the claim to a period.

In addition, Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-6 and 11. Accordingly, claim 4 has been amended to include the features of claim 1. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to include the features of claim 1. Thus, claims 4-6 and 11 are believed to be in condition for allowance. It is submitted that these amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,558,453 to Sepke et al. (Sepke). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sepke in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,406,505 to Oh et al. (Oh). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sepke.

Independent claim 1 now recites, in part, that the lower casing is provided with "a plurality of dust-collecting chambers at sides of the cyclone chamber" (emphasis added).

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The Office Action acknowledges that Sepke is silent as to the lower casing providing a plurality of dust-collecting chambers. See page 3, lines 15-17 of the Office Action dated March 29, 2005. However, the Office Action asserts that Oh discloses a plurality of chambers.

Applicants respectfully submit that the two chambers of Oh are not at sides of the cyclone chamber as now recited by claim 1.

Oh discloses a vacuum cleaner having a two-step contamination separation process where contaminants are first separated from the air by centrifugation in the cyclone body 11. After that, minute contaminants, which were not separated during the centrifugation process, are captured by the filtering section 19. Contaminants in the air drawn into the cyclone body 11 are separated from the air by centrifugation and discharged into a contaminant receptacle 13. Meanwhile, after the contaminants have been separated from the air, the clean air is discharged through the fine holes of the grill 17c and the air outlet passage 17b, and is drawn into the filter case 33 through the air duct 35. The air is then filtered as it passes through the air filter 31. Accordingly, even minute contaminants, which cannot be separated by the centrifugation, are captured by the air filter 31.

However, as is clearly shown in Figure 3, the contaminant receptacle 13 of Oh is below the cyclone body 11, while the air filter 31 is in a separate chamber next to the cyclone body.

Advantageously, the cyclone dust-collecting apparatus having dust-collecting chambers at sides of the cyclone chamber as in claim 1 provides a more compact apparatus than is possible by the complex multiple chambers of Oh. Specifically, the present application provides that:

"Also, since the dust-collecting chambers 48 are provided to both sides of the cyclone body 20, total height is reduced. Accordingly, even when the dust-collecting apparatus 100 is employed in a canister type vacuum cleaner, a compact-sized product can be realized." See page 11, lines 14-17 of the present

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application.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the single chamber of Sepke in combination with the complex system of multiple chambers of Oh does not disclose or suggest the plurality of dust-collecting chambers at sides of the cyclone chamber as now recited by claim 1.

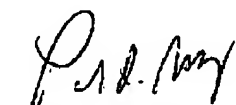
Accordingly, claim 1, as well as claims 3, 7-10, and 12-13 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 3, 7-10, and 12-13 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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